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# How food processing plants can win the Army-Navy production award

*The Nation's food processing plants, engaged in all-out production of food, are eligible for the Army-Navy Production Award -- the symbolic "E" for Excellence*

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

BOTH the War and Navy Departments recognize the essential position of food processing in the war effort, and have authorized the Food Distribution Administration to nominate candidates to be considered for this honor by the Army and Navy Boards for Production Awards.

The armed services consider food, like planes, ships, tanks and guns, to be a weapon -- a powerful weapon. And as in the case of other munitions, the production of food in final form depends upon the men and women who process it, the capital which provides the equipment, the management and supervision which coordinate the effort.

Quantity and quality of production in the light of available facilities are the factors that are given the greatest weight in selecting recipients for the award. Other factors considered are ingenuity and cooperation with the Government in developing and producing war foods, overcoming production obstacles, avoidance of stoppages, maintenance of fair labor standards, training of additional labor forces, effective management, accident prevention, health and sanitation, plant protection, and utilization of subcontracting facilities.

All plants engaged in food processing have the opportunity to qualify for the award. There is equal opportunity for governmental as well as private plants; those engaged partly on war work as well as those engaged fully on war work; subcontractors as well as prime contractors.

No "E" award is permanent. The records of each winning company are re-

viewed every 6 months by both the Army and Navy Boards for Production Awards. If the Boards find that a company has not succeeded in upholding the standards of the Army-Navy Production Award, that company loses the right to fly the award flag until the standards of excellence again have been met. Each time the Army and Navy Boards renew the award to a company, a white star is affixed to its flag.

## Pennant and insignia

The Army-Navy Production Award is a swallow-tailed flag with a large letter "E" in the center, surrounded by a yellow wreath of oak and laurel leaves and mounted on a vertically divided red and blue background. The word "Army" appears on the red background; the word "Navy" on the blue. Letters and border are of white.

Employees of the winning company also are honored. Each is presented with an Army-Navy lapel pin, which also has a large letter "E" within a wreath of oak and laurel leaves. The pin is made of silver and has horizontal swallow-tail wings divided into five bands -- red, white, blue, white, red.

## History of the "E"

Since 1906 the Navy has given the "E" award to those units of the fleet that surpass all others in performance of duty in engineering, gunnery, or communications. During peace times, regular competitions for the award are held between the individual units of the fleet. If one turret crew, for example, excels all others in





gunnery and is declared the winner, the members of that crew are given the privilege of wearing a white "E" on the arm of their dress uniforms and an "E" is painted on the turret itself. The turret crew can keep the "E" as long as it excels all others.

The Army and Navy have been eager to recognize the high responsibility of American industry. Even before Pearl Harbor, the Secretary of the Navy, with the approval of the President, inaugurated the system of awarding the Navy's symbol of excellence afloat, the Navy "E," to plants that showed marked superiority in the production of naval equipment.

The Under Secretary of War and the Under Secretary of the Navy announced in the summer of 1942 the establishment of the joint production award representing recognition by both the Army and the Navy of the patriotism of industrial America. The "E" for Excellence, with its proud background of tradition, was selected as the symbol by which both armed services confer their highest praise for outstanding effort. It is the mark associating the men and women of industry with the men and women of the fighting forces in the common task.

#### How processors may win

Any food processing company that meets the prescribed standards of excellence may communicate with the Regional Administrator, Food Distribution Administration, at one of the addresses listed below, or with the appropriate Commodity Branch Chief, Food Distribution Administration, Washington, D. C.

If, after investigation, the regional administrator or commodity branch chief, believes that the company is qualified for the award, he will forward the record for review to the Processors Branch, Food Distribution Administration, Washington, D. C.

If approved, the Food Distribution Administration will prepare letters of nomination to the Army and Navy Boards for Production Awards. The individual Army and Navy Boards for Production Awards are composed of officers and experienced civilian experts who are qualified to weigh all the records and to grant the award only to those companies, large or small, which have shown themselves worthy of this high honor by outstanding production of "Food for Freedom." The recipient of the award will be formally notified by a letter from the Under Secretary of the Navy or the Under Secretary of War.

#### Address nearest Food Distribution Administration regional office:

Northeast Region  
150 Broadway  
New York, N. Y.

Rocky Mountain Region  
Burns Vault Bldg.  
1536 Welton Street  
Denver, Colo.

Southern Region  
Western Union Bldg.  
Cor. Marietta  
& Forsyth Sts.  
Atlanta, Ga.

Pacific Region  
821 Market Street  
San Francisco, Calif.

Southwest Region  
425 Wilson Bldg.  
Dallas, Tex.

Midwest Region  
Old Colony Building  
Grand Ave. at W. 10th  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Great Lakes Region  
Mallers Building  
5 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Food Distribution Administration  
Washington, D. C. April 1943

